

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 03574 311650Z
ACTION XMB-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 EA-10 FRB-03 INR-10 IO-13
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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6614
INFO EC COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COPENHAGEN 3574

DEPT FOR EXIMBANK

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O.: 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EEC, SF, DA
SUBJ: DANISH FOLKETING ASKS GOVERNMENT FOR CERTAIN ECONOMIC
SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

REFS: (A) COPENHAGEN 1096; (B) COPENHAGEN 1124

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1. LAST FRIDAY, MAY 26, THE DANISH FOLKETING PASSED A
RESOLUTION, INTRODUCED BY THE SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY (SF),
CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT CERTAIN ECONOMIC
MEASURES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA.

2. THESE MEASURES WERE VIEWED AS SUPPORTIVE OF THE ACTION
PROGRAM SET OUT IN THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE NORDIC FOR-

EIGN MINISTERS AT THEIR MARCH 9-10 MEETING IN OSLO. THE 92 FAVORABLE VOTES REPRESENTED THE GOVERNING SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, THE THREE PARTIES OF THE FAR LEFT (SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY, COMMUNISTS, LEFT SOCIALISTS), TWO SMALL CENTER PARTIES ABSTAINED. THE LARGER PARTIES OF THE CENTER-RIGHT OPPOSED (PROGRESSIVES, LIBERALS, CONSERVATIVES AND CENTER DEMOCRATS), STATING THAT IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE FOLKETING TO PROPOSE SANCTIONS AGAINST A COUNTRY WITH WHICH DENMARK HAS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THE RESOLUTION WAS ALSO OPPOSED BY DANISH EMPLOYER AND BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS AS DOING MORE DAMAGE TO DENMARK THAN TO SOUTH AFRICA.

3. SPECIFICALLY, THE MEASURES WERE FORMULATED AS A RESOLUTION WHICH CALLS ON THE GOVERNMENT TO:

- STOP CREDIT GUARANTEES FOR DANISH EXPORTS TO SOUTH AFRICA;
- CALL HOME THE DANISH TRADE REPRESENTATIVE IN THE DANISH CONSULATE GENERAL IN JOHANNESBURG. (THROUGH SOMETHING OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FLUKE WHICH OCCURRED SEVERAL YEARS AGO, THE DANES DO NOT MAINTAIN AN EMBASSY IN SOUTH AFRICA.);
- REQUEST ELSAM (JUTLAND-FUNEN POWER PLANT GROUP) TO TRY, IF POSSIBLE, TO PROCURE ITS COAL ELSEWHERE OTHER THAN SOUTH AFRICA.

4. SF'S ATTEMPTS TO REQUIRE DANISH VISAS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONALS AND TO TRY TO BAN SAS OPERATIONS TO SOUTH AFRICA FAILED, AND THESE POINTS WERE DROPPED FROM THE RESOLUTION AS IT FINALLY PASSED.

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5. DANISH TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA IN 1977 WAS VALUED AT DKR. 301 MILLION (US DOLLARS 50 MILLION), ACCOUNTING FOR ONLY 0.2 PERCENT OF TOTAL DANISH TRADE. IMPORTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA WERE VALUED AT DKR. 165 MILLION, CONCENTRATED IN THE AREAS OF COAL (43 PERCENT), FRUIT AND VEGETABLES (26 PERCENT), GRAINS (11 PERCENT) AND FERTILIZERS (1 PERCENT). DANISH EXPORTS TO SOUTH AFRICA WERE VALUED AT DKR. 135 MILLION, OF WHICH MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT ACCOUNTED FOR 43 PERCENT OF THAT AMOUNT, CHEMICALS AND PHARMACEUTICALS FOR 20 PERCENT, FOODS FOR 8 PERCENT AND INSTRUMENTS FOR 5 PERCENT. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT APPROXIMATELY 9-10 PERCENT OF DANISH EXPORTS TO SOUTH AFRICA ARE GUARANTEED BY THE EXPORT CREDIT COUNCIL.

6. COMMENT: THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, WE WERE TOLD BY ONE OF THEIR LEADING PARLIAMENTARIANS, HOPE TO USE THIS RESOLUTION, WHICH IS POLITICALLY BINDING ON THE GOVERNMENT, TO FORTIFY THIS COUNTRY'S POSITION ON SOUTH AFRICA VIS-A-VIS ITS EC-9 PARTNERS. DURING THE DANISH PRESIDENCY FOREIGN MINISTER K. B. ANDERSEN HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN ATTEMPTING TO PERSUADE OTHERS OF THE NINE, NOTABLY THE BRITISH AND THE FRENCH, TO ADOPT TOUGHER MEASURES OF REAL SIGNIFICANCE AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. (REFTELS). END COMMENT.

DEAN

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